

**Child Welfare Network  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 16, 2014, 7:30-9:30 a.m.  
Las Vegas Country Club, Rotunda Room**

**Our Vision**

**The Child Welfare Network seeks to create public accountability and better outcomes for the children and their families that it serves.**

**Our Mission**

**Support information-sharing** by providing a forum where individuals and organizations concerned about children in Nevada's child welfare system can exchange resources, ideas, problems, and solutions through learning from one another and providing all members an opportunity to be heard:

**Promote collaboration** among service providers, county and state administrators, educators, parents, and foster parents, youth, private funders and concerned citizens with the collective focus on the best interests of children who are fundamentally our constituents; and

**Take action** that leads to real results by advocating with a united voice on child welfare issues to improve services that respond to the needs (and improve the lives of) children and families in Nevada.

The following individuals attended the Child Welfare Network (CWN) meeting:

Aga Pinkerton	Senator Harry Reid's Office
Amanda Haboush	UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
Amy Ayoub	The Zen Speaker
Amy Honodel	Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
André Wade	Clark County Dept. Family Services
Barbara Buckley	Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Barbara De Castro	Nevada Youth Care Providers
Carlos Silva	CARE Coalition
Celia Pinol	Sojourn Foundation
Charlene Frost	Nevada PEP
Daniele Dreitzer	The Rape Crisis Center
Darlene K. Duncan	Nevada DFS
Denise Tanata Ashby	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Hilary Westrom MFT	Ritter Charitable Trust/Children's Advocacy Alliance
Howard Olshansky	Boys Town Nevada
Ivette Sanchez	Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
James Raffel	Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY)
Jennifer Silverman	Children's Attorney's Project (CAP) at Legal Aid Center of So. Nevada

Jill Marano	Division of Child & Family Services
John Wagner	UNLV
Kevin Costello	East Valley Family Services
Kim Amato	Baby's Bounty
Linda Quast	University of Phoenix
Mari Parlade	Dept. of Family Services
Marianne Sabino	Solutions Recovery
Marlyn Buckley	PiP
Sarah Kern	Mojave Mental Health
Seth Wongsavit	NCF – Nevada Community Foundation
Shauna Davis	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Sheila Parks	8th Judicial District Court-CASA Program
Stacey Wedding	Ritter Charitable Trust/PiP
Stephanie Holguin	UNLV--NCLI
Toby Hyman	NV DHHS/GMV
Valerie Hicks	SAFY

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Denise Tanata Ashby called the meeting to order and extended a thank you to all in attendance. She reviewed the activities for the day and made the appropriate introductions.

### **Member Highlights**

Denise asked that agencies interested in making a short informational presentation regarding their agency during this time on future agendas to contact her (or Shauna Davis) to schedule.

Howard Olshansky of Boys Town shared that Boys Town has been active in Nevada since 1991 and reaches out to kids from 10-18 yrs. of age. The presentation also explained that about 8-10 years ago Boys Town incorporated the residential model because of the importance of the family structure involved. He stated that the residential/teaching model is serving ~70 residential children and ~2000 community education participants. These are child management and skill based programs including follow-up procedures.

The Latin Chamber of Commerce, CCSD and Boys Town secured a collaborative grant from the Engelstad Foundation focused on support and educating kids and families on issues of basic needs. Boys Town is also a provider for CCSD for wrap-around services.

Barbara Buckley spoke to the group about services available from Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (LACSN). She spoke about the many resources available including:

- 1) Community Legal Education Project, free bi-lingual classes taught by law students, available to anyone regardless of income level

- 2) Civil Law Self-Help Center in the two courthouses, serves about 45,000 annually and is available to anyone regardless of income level
- 3) Consumer Rights Project
- 4) Children's Attorney Project has about 15 staff and 500 volunteers. This program is aggressive in getting client's needs met, partners with CASA and includes legislative and policy work.
- 5) Domestic Violence Project including Immigration issues
- 6) Pro Bono Project- Boyd School of Law supports this program.

### **Preparing for 2015 Legislative Session**

There was a meeting held on 12/3/13 to begin to develop CAA Policies for the 2015 Legislative session. Topics discussed at the meeting included:

- Foster Parents Bill of Rights
- Biological Parents Bill of Rights
- Reducing Case load size for caseworkers
- Implementing trauma-informed care into practice
- Establishing licensing and quality standards for services provided to children (e.g. mental health services)

If any agencies or individuals would like to present thoughts or ideas, please contact CAA as soon as possible. Legislative meetings are being held soon and will be limited in number. Contact at [Denise \(denise.tanata@caanv.org\)](mailto:denise.tanata@caanv.org) or [Shauna \(shauna.davis@caanv.org\)](mailto:shauna.davis@caanv.org) by email or [phone at 702-228-1869](tel:702-228-1869).

### **Building Connections**

DFS is working on finalizing the Building Connections report. Mari Parlade will strategize with Shauna (CAA) to streamline next steps for Building Connections. More information on Next Steps for Building Connections will be coming soon.

### **Presentation:**

Child Welfare Federal Review Process

Presented by Jill Marano, Deputy Administrator for DCFS

### **Acronym Guide**

- DCFS-State of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services
- DFS- Clark County Department of Social Services
- WCDSS-Washoe County Department of Social Services
- CFSR -Child and Family Services Review
  - This is a review process conducted by the Federal government. Every state must be in compliance to receive federal funding.
- PIP - Program Improvement Plan. Nevada is completing their second PIP.

- CFSP -Child and Family Services Plan
  - CFSP is a 5 year strategic plan for the State of Nevada's child welfare system. Nevada is currently working on the 2015-2019 Plan.

Jill Marano gave an overview of the progress for Nevada's second Program Improvement Plan and presented an overview of the CFSR process. The CFSR is a federal review process which is mandatory to receive child welfare funding (Title IV-E funds). The three goals of the CFSR are: 1) ensure conformity with federal child welfare requirements, 2) determine what is actually happening with children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services, and 3) assist states with helping children and families achieve positive outcomes. After completion of the CFSRs, States enter into a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) which is a plan to enhance safety, permanency and well-being outcomes for children and families. Nevada has participated in two CFSRs and has successfully completed two PIPs. In addition to the CFSRs and the PIPs, Nevada is also required to have a 5 year strategic plan which is called the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). There will be an opportunity for community members to provide their input before the 2015 plan is finalized.

For more information on the CFSR and PIP, please visit:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/monitoring/child-family-services-reviews>  
[http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/family\\_services/Pages/CFSRReport.aspx](http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/family_services/Pages/CFSRReport.aspx)  
[http://www.dcss.state.nv.us/DCFS\\_PIP.htm](http://www.dcss.state.nv.us/DCFS_PIP.htm)

### **Funding/Grant Opportunities**

Stacey Wedding announced that Impact Las Vegas will be awarding a \$13,000 grant. Letters of Interest are due 2/15/14, and details will be sent via email to the membership.

Denise reported that Nevada ranks 53rd in Federal grant funding and that a report is being reviewed. There is a pilot program on the horizon which will be looking at funding and grants for mental health services in Nevada. Denise will provide additional information as details become available.

### **General Announcements**

#### **Daniele Dreitzer-Rape Crisis Center**

- 1) The Center for Peace will be conducting informal focus groups on how to better serve youth.
- 2) Feb. 15, 2014 the RCC will celebrate their 40 years of service to Southern Nevada by sponsoring a 4K Walk/8K Run starting at 8 am to be held at The Lake Path at Sunset Park. Details and registration at [www.RCC.org/events](http://www.RCC.org/events). Discounted registration deadline is 2/1/14.

### Mari Parlade-Manager of Clark County DFS

- 1) A donor expressed interest in rebuilding the Child Haven playground. If approved, this would be a community project where community partners will be invited to partake in Design Day (2/15/14) and Build Day (4/15/14), which will be during Child Abuse Awareness Prevention Month.
- 2) In partnership with CASA and the courts, we finalized a record for any given Adoption Day Event of 102 adoptions. We finalized a total of 573 adoptions in 2013.

### John Wagner-UNLV

UNLV Grant Academy will be coming soon in 2014. It will provide grant writing expertise and support for both non-profit and public sectors. Contact John at [john.wagner@unlv.edu](mailto:john.wagner@unlv.edu).

### Darlene Duncan- DFS (468-7668)

DCFS Training website: [www.nvpartnership4training.com](http://www.nvpartnership4training.com) will be offering free monthly mandated reporter online training beginning the first Monday of each month and completed by the end of the month. 3CEUs.

### Marianne Sabino-Solutions Recovery

Daniel Berarducci, MA, CPC of Illuminations Counseling is offering free therapy for ages 12-17, adolescents experiencing depression or depression symptoms. This would be for 4 individuals, and their families would need to be involved. Contact Marianne at [msabino@Solutions-Recovery.com](mailto:msabino@Solutions-Recovery.com) or 209-753-7750.

### Sponsored by Senator Reid's Office

- 1) On January 30 from 9am-5pm- "Insuring Healthy Futures" for AAPI community. Learn about new options and get started with health insurance enlistment. RAPACD Cultural Center located at 3339 W. Washington Ave. LV 89117. RSVP at 702-388-5020.
- 2) Interns are needed at Senator Reid's office.

### One Billion Rising

Event at Galleria Mall 12 noon on 2/14/14.

### SAFY

Ribbon cutting with LV Chamber of Commerce. Check out the chamber website after 2/10 or stop by around 11 am on 2/10/14 to join the fun.

### André Wade-Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)

A National Meeting will be held at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino on 2/25-26/14. Discussion will focus on practice and enhancements to QPI, announce successes, and remove barriers.

Nevada's Big Give will be held on 4/25/14.

Learn more at [www.nevadagives.org](http://www.nevadagives.org) or [www.nvbiggive.org](http://www.nvbiggive.org).

Children's Week at the Legislature will be held in March of 2015. More details will be coming from Denise.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD: April 3, 2014 at the Las Vegas Country Club Rotunda Room from 7:30-9:30 a.m.